

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 6, 8, 11, and 18-29 are pending.

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, Second paragraph. The specification was objected to for reasons that were the basis for the Section 112 rejection. Applicant and counsel for Applicant note with appreciation the suggestions made by the Examiner to correct the wording of the claims as originally filed. Applicant has adopted those corrections to the extent possible in the claim amendments made herein. The specification has been corrected “where the language of specification echoes the claim language rejected” under Section 112, as requested by the Examiner.

Claims 7, 12, 14, 15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,912,695 to Senshu.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-8, and 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,311,522 to Murakami.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 7, 8, and 12-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,125,100 to Sensyu.

It is noted with appreciation that claims 3, 5, 9, and 10 are deemed to recite allowable subject matter.

Applicant has amended certain claims to incorporate the allowable subject matter and has introduced new claims for consideration.

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Reply to Office Action of May 20, 2004

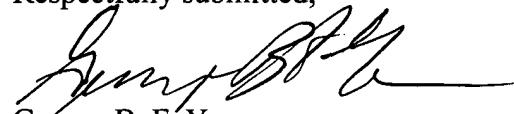
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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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